

[English]

Flood Control Works on Brahmaputra

3100. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the break up of allocation of funds for various flood control works on Brahmaputra from the 500 crores declared in the Prime Minister's package of October, 1996;

(b) the proposed percentage of reduction of Brahmaputra flood through Pagaladia Dam Project; and

(c) the total allocation for protection of Majuli Island and Brahmaputra basin ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The proposed allocation of funds from the sum of Rs. 500 crore declared by the Prime Minister in October, 1996 for North-Eastern States are as follows :-

(i) Rs. 225 crores may be provided to the Brahmaputra Board to execute partially Pagladiya Dam Project and fully execute the Harang Drainage Project.

(ii) 10-15% of the Rs. 500 crore is to be allocated to other North-Eastern States other than the Assam State to carry out flood control measures and the balance amount goes to the Assam State for the execution of short term measures in the flood moderation works in their territory.

(b) After implementation of the Pagladiya Dam Project it is expected to yield flood control benefit to the tune of about Rs. 14 crore per annum besides providing assured irrigation to about 54,000 ha. of land. It will also be able to protect the only rail link to the North-East and National Highway-31 which carry vital supplies and passenger traffic to the North-Eastern States.

(c) A sum of Rs. 60.65 lakh and Rs 24.10 lakh have been provided for river modelling of the river Brahmaputra at Majuli, segment of Majuli Island and for preparation of exclusive Master Plan for the Island respectively by Brahmaputra Board.

Route from Orissa to North East

3101. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Highway 2 or National Highway 6 passes through Baharamuri nearer to Jharagram

in the district of Midnapur extend upto Raniganj via Bankura or Durgapur;

(b) if so, the distance from Orissa to North East will be the shortest route for communication and the time by which it will be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Recognised Shankracharyas

3102. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of recognised Shankracharyas in the country at present;

(b) whether all these Shankracharyas are enjoying equal Government facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irrigation Facilities to Farmers

3103. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently launched new scheme to provide irrigation facilities to small and marginal farmers living below the poverty line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Ganga Kalyan Yojana as a Sub-scheme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during 1996-97. The salient features of the scheme are as follows :-

(i) to provide irrigation through exploitation of ground water (borewell & tubewells) to individu-